

Appl. No. 10/684,644

Preliminary Amendment dated January 8, 2004

REMARKS

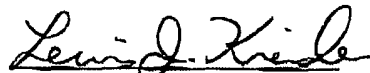
Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

The subject matter of claim 1 (both original and as amended) was invented after the subject matter of claims 2-8 and 10-13 by an inventive entity different from the inventive entity that invented the subject matter of claims 2-8 and 10-13. At the time(s) the subject matter of claim 1 was invented, the subject matter of all of the pending claims was owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same assignee.

Claim 1 has been amended to exclude the subject matter of claim 2. Thus, support for amended claim 1 can be found in claims 1 and 2 as originally filed. Claim 2 has been amended to be in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not raise an issue of new matter. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is required in connection with the filing of this Amendment. If any fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1677.

Respectfully submitted,



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